

Table 4.5 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory and Development Wells, Selected Years, 1949-2009

Year	Wells Drilled				Successful Wells	Footage Drilled ¹				Average Depth			
	Crude Oil ²	Natural Gas ³	Dry Holes ⁴	Total		Crude Oil ²	Natural Gas ³	Dry Holes ⁴	Total	Crude Oil ²	Natural Gas ³	Dry Holes ⁴	Total
	Number					Percent	Thousand Feet				Feet per Well		
1949	21,352	3,363	12,597	37,312	66.2	79,428	12,437	43,754	135,619	3,720	3,698	3,473	3,635
1950	23,812	3,439	14,799	42,050	64.8	92,695	13,685	50,977	157,358	3,893	3,979	3,445	3,742
1955	30,432	4,266	20,452	55,150	62.9	121,148	19,930	85,103	226,182	3,981	4,672	4,161	4,101
1960	22,258	5,149	18,212	45,619	60.1	86,568	28,246	77,361	192,176	3,889	5,486	4,248	4,213
1965	18,065	4,482	16,226	38,773	58.2	73,322	24,931	76,629	174,882	4,059	5,562	4,723	4,510
1970	12,968	4,011	11,031	28,010	60.6	56,859	23,623	58,074	138,556	4,385	5,860	5,265	4,943
1971	11,853	3,971	10,309	26,133	60.6	49,109	23,460	54,685	127,253	4,126	5,890	5,305	4,858
1972	11,378	5,440	10,891	27,709	60.7	49,269	30,006	58,556	137,831	4,330	5,516	5,377	4,974
1973	10,167	6,933	10,320	27,420	62.4	44,416	38,045	55,761	138,223	4,369	5,488	5,403	5,041
1974	13,647	7,138	12,116	32,901	63.2	52,025	38,449	62,899	153,374	3,812	5,387	5,191	4,662
1975	16,948	8,127	13,646	38,721	64.8	66,819	44,454	69,220	180,494	3,943	5,470	5,073	4,661
1976	17,688	9,409	13,758	40,855	66.3	68,892	49,113	68,977	186,982	3,895	5,220	5,014	4,577
1977	18,745	12,122	14,985	45,852	67.3	75,451	63,686	76,728	215,866	4,025	5,254	5,120	4,708
1978	19,181	14,413	16,551	50,145	67.0	77,041	75,841	85,788	238,669	4,017	5,262	5,183	4,760
1979	20,851	15,254	16,099	52,204	69.2	82,688	80,468	81,642	244,798	3,966	5,275	5,071	4,689
1980	32,959	17,461	20,785	71,205	70.8	125,262	92,106	99,575	316,943	3,801	5,275	4,791	4,451
1981	43,887	20,250	27,953	92,090	69.6	172,167	108,353	134,934	415,454	3,923	5,351	4,827	4,511
1982	39,459	19,076	26,379	84,914	68.9	149,674	107,149	123,746	380,569	3,793	5,617	4,691	4,482
1983	37,366	14,684	24,355	76,405	68.1	136,849	78,108	105,222	320,179	3,662	5,319	4,320	4,191
1984	42,906	17,338	25,884	86,128	69.9	162,653	91,480	119,860	373,993	3,791	5,276	4,631	4,342
1985	35,261	14,324	21,211	70,796	70.0	137,728	76,293	100,388	314,409	3,906	5,326	4,733	4,441
1986	19,213	8,599	12,799	40,611	68.5	76,825	45,039	60,961	182,825	3,999	5,238	4,763	4,502
1987	16,210	8,096	11,167	35,473	68.5	66,358	42,584	53,588	162,530	4,094	5,260	4,799	4,582
1988	13,646	8,578	10,119	32,343	68.7	58,639	45,363	52,517	156,519	4,297	5,288	5,190	4,839
1989	10,230	9,522	8,236	27,988	70.6	43,266	49,081	42,099	134,446	4,229	5,154	5,112	4,804
1990	^R 12,800	^R 11,227	^R 8,237	^R 32,264	^R 74.5	^R 56,675	^R 57,002	^R 42,527	^R 156,204	^R 4,427	^R 5,077	^R 5,162	^R 4,841
1991	^R 12,542	^R 9,768	^R 7,476	^R 29,786	^R 74.9	^R 56,329	^R 50,971	^R 37,839	^R 145,139	^R 4,491	^R 5,218	^R 5,061	^R 4,872
1992	^R 9,379	^R 8,149	^R 5,857	^R 23,385	^R 75.0	^R 45,973	^R 44,748	^R 29,440	^R 120,161	^R 4,901	^R 5,491	^R 5,026	^R 5,138
1993	^R 8,828	^R 9,829	^R 6,093	^R 24,750	^R 75.4	^R 44,410	^R 58,322	^R 31,110	^R 133,842	^R 5,030	^R 5,933	^R 5,105	^R 5,407
1994	^R 7,334	^R 9,358	^R 5,092	^R 21,784	^R 76.6	^R 38,803	^R 58,360	^R 27,806	^R 124,969	^R 5,290	^R 6,236	^R 5,460	^R 5,736
1995	^R 8,230	^R 8,081	^R 4,813	^R 21,124	^R 77.2	^R 41,249	^R 49,816	^R 26,394	^R 117,459	^R 5,012	^R 6,164	^R 5,483	^R 5,560
1996	^R 8,819	^R 9,015	^R 4,890	^R 22,724	^R 78.5	^R 42,566	^R 56,205	^R 27,875	^R 126,646	^R 4,826	^R 6,234	^R 5,700	^R 5,573
1997	^R 11,189	^R 11,494	^R 5,874	^R 28,557	^R 79.4	^R 56,446	^R 71,555	^R 33,753	^R 161,754	^R 5,044	^R 6,225	^R 5,746	^R 5,664
1998	^R 7,659	^R 11,613	^R 4,763	^R 24,035	^R 80.2	^R 38,658	^R 70,281	^R 28,594	^R 137,533	^R 5,047	^R 6,051	^R 6,003	^R 5,722
1999	^R 4,759	^R 11,979	^R 3,554	^R 20,292	82.5	^R 21,983	^R 60,234	^R 20,670	^R 102,887	^R 4,619	^R 5,028	^R 5,815	^R 5,070
2000	^R 8,089	^R 16,986	^R 4,134	^R 29,209	85.8	^R 36,865	^R 83,502	^R 23,987	^R 144,354	^R 4,557	^R 4,915	^R 5,802	^R 4,942
2001	^R 8,880	^R 22,033	^R 4,564	^R 35,477	87.1	^R 43,339	^R 110,648	^R 26,148	^R 180,135	^R 4,880	^R 5,021	^R 5,729	^R 5,077
2002	^R 6,762	^R 17,297	^R 3,728	^R 27,787	86.6	^R 30,956	^R 93,055	^R 21,121	^R 145,132	^R 4,577	^R 5,379	^R 5,665	^R 5,223
2003	^R 8,104	^R 20,685	^R 3,970	^R 32,759	^R 87.9	^R 38,751	^R 116,010	^R 22,728	^R 177,489	^R 4,781	^R 5,608	^R 5,724	^R 5,418
2004	^R 8,764	^R 24,112	^R 4,053	^R 36,929	^R 89.0	^R 42,263	^R 138,464	^R 23,662	^R 204,389	^R 4,822	^R 5,742	^R 5,838	^R 5,534
2005 ^E	^R 10,696	^R 28,500	^R 4,656	^R 43,852	89.4	^R 51,470	^R 164,033	^R 25,096	^R 240,599	^R 4,812	^R 5,755	^R 5,390	^R 5,486
2006 ^E	^R 13,289	^R 32,878	^R 5,183	^R 51,350	^R 89.9	^R 63,620	^R 192,921	^R 27,799	^R 284,340	^R 4,787	^R 5,867	^R 5,363	^R 5,537
2007 ^E	^R 13,564	^R 33,132	^R 5,121	^R 51,817	^R 90.1	^R 67,009	^R 213,241	^R 28,566	^R 308,816	^R 4,940	^R 6,436	5,578	^R 5,959
2008 ^E	^R 17,370	^R 34,118	^R 5,726	^R 57,214	^R 90.0	^R 89,815	^R 235,330	^R 29,708	^R 354,853	^R 5,170	^R 6,897	^R 5,188	^R 6,202
2009 ^E	13,175	19,153	3,537	35,865	90.1	68,090	132,713	18,296	219,099	5,168	6,929	5,172	6,108

¹ See "Footage Drilled" in Glossary.

² See "Crude Oil Well" in Glossary.

³ See "Natural Gas Well" in Glossary.

⁴ See "Dry Hole" in Glossary.

R=Revised. E=Estimate.

Notes: • Data are for exploratory and development wells combined; see Table 4.6 for exploratory wells only, and Table 4.7 for development wells only. • Service wells, stratigraphic tests, and core tests are excluded. • For 1949-1959, data represent wells completed in a given year. For 1960-1969, data are for well completion reports received by the American Petroleum Institute during the reporting year. For 1970 forward, the data represent wells completed in a given year. The as-received well completion data for recent years are incomplete due to delays in the reporting of wells drilled. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) therefore statistically imputes the missing data. • Revisions for 1990-2008 are due to

updates through January 2010 in the source files, including the addition of data for new wells that are classified as horizontal or lateral, which were previously not included in this table. • Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding. Average depth may not equal average of components due to independent rounding.

Web Pages: • For all data beginning in 1949, see <http://www.eia.gov/emeu/aer/resource.html>.

• For related information, see http://www.eia.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/info_glance/petroleum.html.

Sources: • 1949-1965—Gulf Publishing Company, *World Oil*, "Forecast-Review" issue.

• 1966-1969—American Petroleum Institute (API), *Quarterly Review of Drilling Statistics for the United States*, annual summaries and monthly reports. • 1970-1989—EIA computations based on well reports submitted to the API. • 1990 forward—EIA computations based on well reports submitted to IHS, Inc., Denver, CO. For current data see the EIA, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 5.2.